person, which includes a company, fails to furnish a return of income under section 139(1) before the end of the relevant assessment year, he shall be liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 5,000/-, as against Rs. 1,000/- provided earlier.

Recovery of loan from poor ryots

1049. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cooperative Banks in Andhra Pradesh are attaching the land and other properties of poor ryots to recover the advances given to them on the plea of onc time settlement;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise;

(c) whether Government have issued such directives to the Cooperative Banks in the State; and

(d) if not, what remedial measures Government propose to take to save the poor ryots of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Docs not arise, in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) With a view to bring down the level of chronic Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had finalised, as a one time measure, certain broad guidelines for onc time settlement of chronic NPAs in the co-operative sector. Based on which National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has issued necessary circulars and guidelines to the State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) and the State Governments in April, 2001. The one time settlement of NPAs envisages compromise between the Bank and borrower and does not involve use of coercive forces. The scheme will remain operative upto 31 March. 2002 and the proposals received for settlement should be processed and decisions taken thereon before 30 June, 2002.